

Duncan, Dann-Messier Join Attorney General to Inaugurate Interagency Reentry Council



Photo by U.S. Department of Justice

OVAE provides adult education, vocational and postsecondary programs for incarcerated individuals through its adult education and Perkins state grants, as well as grants to states for workplace and community transition training. The Interagency Reentry Council's mission is to make communities safer by reducing recidivism and victimization; assist those returning from prison and jail in becoming productive, tax-paying citizens; and save taxpayer dollars by lowering the costs of incarceration. In addition to the Departments of Justice and Education, the council includes the departments of Health and Human Services, Agriculture, Interior, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, and Veterans Affairs. Members also include the Social Security Administration, Office of National Drug Control Policy, White House Domestic Policy Council, White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The Reentry Council will meet semi-annually to leverage resources across agencies to reduce recidivism and victimization; identify evidence-based practices that advance the council's mission; promote changes to federal statutes, policies and practices that focus on reducing crime; and identify opportunities and barriers in federal policies to improve outcomes for the reentry community.

CTE Community Conversations —An Invitation to Share Your Views

OVAE has launched a series of career and technical education (CTE) community conversations to gather stakeholder feedback that will be used to help shape the Department's Perkins reauthorization goals. The first CTE Community Conversation occurred on Oct. 27, 2010, during the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc) [Fall 2010 Meeting](#). State directors of CTE from across the country provided feedback based on the following questions:

- How can states and local programs better prepare students for college and careers and help them successfully transition to postsecondary education?
- How is the Program of Study framework working?
- What partnership models have you found that support strong student outcomes?
- Which performance measures are most useful to your program management and development?

Three further conversations covering the same lines of questioning were conducted by OVAE Assistant Secretary Brenda Dann-Messier and OVAE staff members at the November 2010 Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Annual Convention in Las Vegas.

We invite you to share your comments about career and technical education and the Perkins legislation. Please visit the [CTE Community Conversations blog](#) under the What's New menu or submit your feedback to us via e-mail at CTEConversations@ed.gov.

Podcast on Measurement Issues and Programs of Study

The [National Research Center for Career and Technical Education \(NRCCTE\)](#) has posted a podcast from the [Next Steps Work Group on Programs of Study](#) measurement, accountability, and evaluation issues. The Programs of Study subgroup (comprising Pradeep Kotamraju, deputy director of the National Research Center for CTE; Randy Dean, Technical College System of Georgia; Rick Mangini, Ohio Department of Education; and John Townsend, Tennessee Board of Regents) had a discussion about the four recommendations made in the Next Step Working Group's November report. This conversation was hosted by the NRCCTE and is available, along with other research webcasts in the Podcast section of its website.